

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Office of Publication: 208 South Elm Street, Denton, Texas; Editorial and Executive Office: 145 North Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.
An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness, and Formalism
VOLUME X, No. 10 DENTON, TEXAS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1943 \$1.00 PER YEAR

Exulting In Tribulation

By EVANGELIST CHARLES E. FULLER
(Preached on Old Fashioned Revival Hour Broadcast, March 14, 1943. Stenographically reported for *The Sword of the Lord*.)
"Not only so, but we glory in tribulations, also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope."—Rom. 5:3, 4.

Will you have your Bibles open, please, at the fifth chapter of Romans, verses 3 and 4? How fitting just before the message on "Exulting in Tribulation," to have the quartet sing, "The Lord Is My Shepherd."

The Lord is my Shepherd,
No want shall I know;
I feed in green pastures,
Safe folded I rest;
He leadeth my soul where
The still waters flow,
Restores me when wandering,
Redeems when oppressed.

Thro' the valley and shadow
Of death tho' I stray,
Since Thou art my Guardian,
No evil I fear;
Thy rod shall defend me,
Thy staff be my stay;
No harm can befall with
My Comforter near.

In the midst of affliction
My table is spread;
With blessings unmeasured
My cup runneth o'er;
With perfume and oil Thou
Anointest my head;
O what shall I ask of
Thy providence more?

Let goodness and mercy,
My bountiful God,
Still follow my steps till
I meet Thee above;
I seek by the path which
My forefathers trod,
Thro' the land of their sojourn
Thy kingdom of love.

Romans 5:3, 4: "Not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope."

Let's bow our heads in prayer.
Our Father, we are coming to
Thy Word, the entrance of which



Rev. Fuller

giveth light, and as we look into the matter of why do the righteous suffer, wilt Thou speak to us that we may see the purpose of those tribulations from Thy standpoint. Especially at this time we do pray for the young converts, the new converts—oh so many have written in accepting Christ as their personal Saviour. How we thank Thee that the old gospel is still the power of God unto salvation. We pray that they may become rooted and grounded and built up in the faith so they will not be carried about by every wind of doctrine that comes by, but that they may be settled, that they may know, "thus saith the Lord," study the Word, memorize it, then in the hour of temptation and trial it may speak to them and guide and guard and protect them. As we speak on this subject so close to us because we have been through so many trials and tribulations, help us to comfort others.
(Continued on page three)

Testimony of Soldier In North Africa

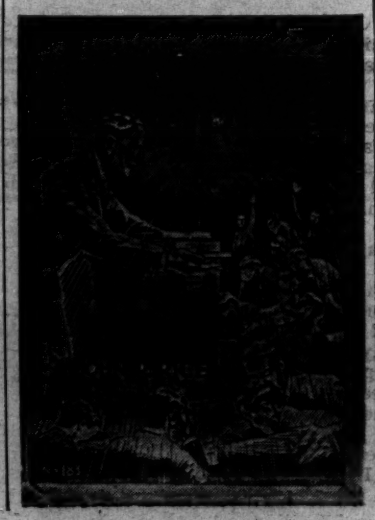
North Africa
(We do not publish full address)
"Dear Christian:
"I was saved July 11th this year. I made the invasion on Sicily and when I came back to Africa, I received the sweet little book, *SOUL WINNER'S FIRE*. I was lonely and blue one Sunday afternoon when it came. It was the first mail I had received from home in nearly two months. It sure is a sweet book to me. It helps a Christian that is in the service. Especially a young and weak one like me. Satan is on every corner. But with the prayers of you people and God's wisdom I will never go astray. My sister sent me the book. She is a very strong Christian. I was baptized in the Mediterranean Sea. Thank God! I would like for you to write me a good letter.

"Your Friend,"
(Signed) Tom Cayson

Do you have the 20c book by Editor John R. Rice, "THE SOUL-WINNER'S FIRE?" The reading of this book has brought a personal revival in many hearts, with a longing and concern over souls which they never had before.

This book may be had at 20c a copy, or 6 copies for \$1.00.

25,000 copies have been printed. It is one of the Moody Colportage series. A blessing is waiting you. Order your copy now. Send a copy in your Christmas package to the one in service.
SWORD OF THE LORD PUBLISHERS
145 N. Hale, Wheaton, Illinois
HAVE YOU READ THIS BOOK?



PROPHECY PROVES THE BIBLE

Specific, Literal Fulfillments of Prophecies Written Long Before Concerning the Birth, Life and Death of Christ, Prove the Bible a Supernatural Revelation from God, Absolutely Reliable.

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken"—Luke 24:25.

It was Jesus Himself, walking toward Emmaus, with two of His disciples who did not believe that He had that day risen from the dead, who rebuked them for their unbelief in these words; "Oh fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken." Jesus said that one that is slow to believe the writings of the prophets in the Old Testament is a fool. And he is a fool in his heart, because there is overwhelming evidence for any unbiased and sincere investigator to know that fulfilled prophecies prove the Old Testament the very infallible, divinely-revealed Word of God that it claims to be.

The Bible has hundreds of prophecies. By this I mean that the Bible actually, in hundreds of places, has definite predictions of things that would come to pass after that part of the Bible was written. The writers of the Bible plainly insist that they received their message by a divine revelation and that God gave them accounts of future events of which He wanted people to know. And many of these accounts of future events are startlingly detailed and unambiguous. The Bible writers repeatedly put themselves on the spot by making prophecies which, if they were not fulfilled, would prove the Bible false.

And Bible prophecies are not like the fore-castings of the weatherman who announces that a cold wave will hit the city in two days, because he knows it is already coming that way. Bible prophecies are not like the forecasts of statesmen who see two nations arming against each other and so warn of a war. On the contrary Bible prophecies often tell of events so far off and so utterly improbable that they could not be the result of shrewd foresight nor of intelligent guessing.

Bible prophecies are not like Mother Shipton's prophecies written in England a few centuries ago. She prophesied that carriages without horses would go, that there would be ships of iron, and that men would fly, as I recall. Some people wonder at those statements, and forget that for long centuries men had been trying to make wings and parachutes and balloons. (Even Greek mythology deals with flying by men). They forget that multiplied thousands of people had seen metal pans, tubs and pots float. They forget that for thousands of years people had sailed ships without horse power and that thousands

of people must have thought on the problem of how to make carriages go without horses. Mother Shipton's prophecies named no specific events, gave no future dates, and when her prophecies turned out correct, it was because their fulfillment would have appeared likely to an intelligent person. But many of Mother Shipton's prophecies did not come to pass. How different from the Bible!

Any honest student can investigate for himself and find Bible prophecies which have been so clearly fulfilled as to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that the Bible is all it claims to be, the infallible Word of God, revealed from Heaven. I suggest three lines of prophecies already fulfilled; those concerning the first coming and

life and death of Christ, those concerning world governments from Nebuchadnezzar to the present time, and concerning God's people, the Jews. This article deals with some prophecies concerning Christ, which have unmistakably been fulfilled. Later articles will show how prophecies concerning world governments and concerning the Jews have been fulfilled.

MANY IMPORTANT FACTS AND EVENTS CONCERNING CHRIST'S FIRST COMING DEFINITELY FORETOLD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, is dated nearly four hundred years before the birth of Christ. Every book in the Old Testament had been written so long that the Jews had a definitely established canon of the Old Testament, and the entire Old Testament had been translated into Greek by a group of seventy Jewish scholars long years before Christ came. Of all the critics of the Bible, all the

(Continued on page two)

Pastor Leads Blessed Revival Navilla Church, McComb, Miss.

By the EDITOR

For some time I have been praying that God will raise us talented, trained, Spirit-filled evangelists. For some years I have had close fellowship with my young brother, Rev. Robert Hughes, who has had a blessed ministry for five or six years as pastor at Navilla Baptist Church, McComb, Mississippi. Recently I have been praying that God would send him out in full time evangelistic work. He has not yet decided about that, but I praise the Lord for the report of a gracious revival in Navilla church, led by the pastor himself, a strong Bible preacher, an unusual student, and a soul-winner of marked success. Brother Hughes writes a personal letter which I take the liberty of quoting, that readers may be blessed as I was.

"321 Nebr. Ave.
McComb, Miss.
"Sep. 8, 1943

"Dear Bro. Rice:
"Sunday I had the joy of baptizing 36 people who had trusted Christ for salvation. One lady whom I baptized, and with whom I had worked for several years—explaining salvation and the right way of living—started winning souls while waiting the 2 or 3 weeks before baptizing. She won 2 of her sons, a neighbor's son, and several others. I baptized all these she won, the same day I baptized her.

"I baptized one grandfather, and one of his married daughters who is the mother of 2 children, and his only single daughter. It was easy to get him after I explained a Bible problem to him.

"One world war I veteran and his son (a young I. C. R. R. employee) I was to baptize, but the father died. The man had testified and worked so hard for the Lord while waiting the baptizing day, everyone was very impressed, and very sad when only his son was baptized. I baptized his two grown daughters year before last. And now his wife has come. That makes the family complete.

"The death of a 5 year old child, and the praying and fasting for the child before his death, were largely responsible for the revival spirit. And yet, even though many were being saved, and it was generally acknowledged that the child's death played a chief part, the dead child's mother herself was not a Christian. At last, however, with many tears and great emotion, she almost ran down the aisle. I baptized her Sunday.

"One mother who had been vitally concerned about the salvation of her son, saw him publicly acknowledge Christ as his Saviour, but then fell and broken her leg, and did not get to see her boy baptized. There were tears over that, but great joy over the boy's salvation.

"I had the joy of baptizing my own cousin, and several from my class.

"One particular joy I had was to baptize a high school girl who wrote me a letter asking how to be saved. I saw her personally, explained to her, and she had perfect satisfaction.

"One young lady had made mistakes, morally, and was in disgrace. She came one night after I preached, and now thanks the good Lord of John 8:1-11 and John 4:3-42, she is an ardent worker, a class leader, and has the confidence and admiration of the whole church.

"Many things made this baptism a very tender, tearful, and touching occasion. But I can not tell of them all. But I rejoice in them all.

"I must stay a while longer. Other sheep I still feel responsible for getting into the fold; some of the young ones need a helping start; some of the Christians (and I did not tell you how they are turning to God to do His whole will) are anxious for power and service.

"Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him." Psalm 2: 12b).

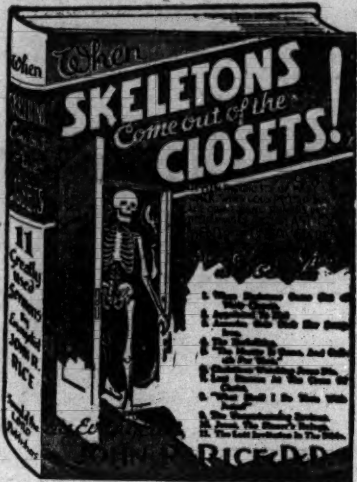
"Robert Hughes"

These Books Are Stirring Thousands

These three books by EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE are blessing thousands of readers. Preachers and all Christians will find them scriptural, Spirit-filled, helpful.

"When Skeletons Come Out Of Their Closets"

Here are 11 greatly used evangelistic messages. Some are to revive Christians, some are to convict sinners and bring them to repentance. Some are tender expositions of the plan of salvation. This is a large book of 191 extra large pages. These sermons have resulted in hundreds of conversions. When printed in the SWORD OF THE LORD there were many calls for extra copies. Beautiful purple Russian Wine Cloth binding, striking jacket. Get these 11 strong, full length evangelistic sermons. Postpaid, only **\$1.00**



Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives And Women Preachers

If it is in the Bible, why not teach it? Well the Bible has a clear teaching that shorn hair for a woman is a shame, picturing rebellion against her father or husband, but that "if a woman have long hair it is a glory unto her." The Bible does clearly teach that wives are to be in subjection to their husbands, obedient to them. The Bible does clearly teach that "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the men, but to be in silence," and again, "Let your women keep silence in the church for it is not permitted unto them to speak."

Some preachers timidly leave these teachings out. Others, to keep up with the modern world, try to explain them away. But Dr. Rice's deep convictions and his vow to preach the word of God honestly, not wresting the scriptures nor ignoring them would not allow him to do anything else but to teach what he understands the Bible to clearly say.

Cloth bound, pictured jacket, 91 pages. Has picture of Author's wife and six daughters; a picture of Mary Lloyds with her braids, and one of Elizabeth with her long hair down before the mirror. Price only **50c**

"And God Remembered..." AND OTHER FAVORITE MESSAGES.

The first sermon, which gives the name to the book tenderly reminds us that God remembered Noah, Abraham, Rachel, Hannah and His covenant; He remembers our tears, our prayers, but He forgets all our sins when they are forgiven. *Tears in Heaven* is the second startling, scriptural sermon. How it corrects Christians! *Behold the Man* tells of the perfect manhood of Christ our Saviour, so He can be a perfect offering and High Priest and Example. *Where Is The Lord God of Elijah* shows how the God who answered Elijah's prayers still answers today. *The Exceeding, Abundantly Able God* encourages big faith and big prayers. *The Torn Vail* teaches how all the barriers between God and man are torn down, since Jesus was crucified and the vail of 'the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.' This book has attractive illustrations, tan cloth binding, beautiful gold paper jacket, 123 pages. Is worth \$1.00 but sells for only **50c**



THESE THREE CLOTH BOUND BOOKS, 405 PAGES OF RICH PREACHING AND BIBLE TEACHING FOR **\$2.00**

SWORD OF THE LORD PUBLISHERS
145 N. HALE STREET WHEATON, ILLINOIS

PROPHECY PROVES THE BIBLE

(Continued from page one)

infidel scholars, not one denies that the entire Old Testament was completed long before Jesus Christ was born. Hence, if the Old Testament foretells accurately the literal events connected with the birth and life and death of Christ, there is only one possible explanation. That explanation is that the Old Testament is the inspired Word of God and that God Himself revealed ahead of time the events that would happen. That is exactly what we find to be the case.

Throughout the Old Testament there are definite prophecies about a coming Person. Jewish scholars had discovered, long before the Saviour came, that many, many separate promises all pointed to the coming of the same Person. They called that coming Person the Messiah. He was the 'Seed of the woman that should bruise the serpent's head and the serpent should bruise his heel,' as promised to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. He was the promised 'Seed of Abraham in whom all the kindred of the earth should be blessed

(Gen. 12:1-3). He was the 'Prophet like unto Moses' that was promised in Deuteronomy 18:15. He was the One pictured in all the sacrifices, as dying for the sins of others. He was the 'Anointed' of Psalm 2:2, the 'Son of Psalm 2:12, the 'Servant' of Isaiah 52:13, and of all the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. He was the 'Messiah the Prince' of Daniel 9:25. Orthodox Jews today know that the Old Testament foretells in many, many places the coming of a Messiah, a Prince or Saviour. They may harden their hearts and go on in sin and reject the Saviour just as other lost sinners do, but very honest inquirer, either Jew or Gentile, who searches for the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament, may find Him revealed in the New Testament, and every prophecy concerning His first coming already meticulously fulfilled!

And for readers who are not scholars let us say that the important historical outlines of the birth, life and death of Christ are now proven. There is as much proof that a man named Jesus was born and lived and was crucified in Palestine early in the first century, as there is evidence for the birth, life and death of George Washington in the eighteenth century. Unconverted Jewish scholars who do not accept Christ as their Saviour yet acknowledge that such a Person lived and did wonderful things in Palestine. Mohammedans are not Christian and do not accept Christ as the Saviour. They have their own bible, the Koran, and do not accept the New Testament. Yet they know Jesus Christ as a historical personage and accept Him as a prophet. Josephus was a great Jewish historian, widely accepted as a secular historian, gives many details concerning the life of Christ, John the Baptist, and other people who lived in Palestine during the life of Christ. So Jesus Christ is a proven historical Character.

That means that when the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, in the New Testament, were written, they could be checked by hundreds of thousands of people who would know the facts concerning many important details in the life of Christ. The Lord Jesus preached to so many thousands of people; His trial and the execution were public, state affairs; events like the coming of the three wise men, Herod's slaughter of innocent children, the rending of the temple veil and the three hours of darkness, the earthquake when Jesus died, were all matters known to multiplied thousands. And these essentials of the life of Christ are not contradicted by any historian or writer, whether Jew or Roman, infidel or Mohammedan.

So, knowing that the historical events mentioned in the New Testament have been checked and proven reliable on the whole, uncontradicted by any scholars, and knowing that the Old Testament was written long before, we need only to compare the facts with the Old Testament prophecies to see whether Jesus is really the Messiah, and whether the Bible is truly the infallible Word of God. And the proof which I give is overwhelming.

A. Details of the Birth of Christ Foretold

1. The Saviour Must Desend from Abraham; from Judah, from King David.

Genesis 11:2, 3, tells how God said to Abraham; "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. That promise could not possibly be true of any other man but of Christ, Abraham's seed according to the flesh. So Jews properly counted this as teaching that the coming Messiah should be descended from Abraham. Galatians 3:8 says: "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen by faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, in thee shall all nations be blessed."

In Genesis 13:15 God promised to Abraham, concerning the land

of Canaan, "For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." A similar promise is given in Genesis 15:18, and in Genesis 17:8. The word seed in Genesis 13:15 is not in the plural but singular form, referring to one descendant of Abraham, who would possess the land of Canaan forever. In the same context the plural form is used referring to the Jewish nation, but Galatians 3:16 in the New Testament calls attention to the singular form and says, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." So the coming Saviour had to be of Abraham's seed, and He would come to possess the land of Canaan and rule it. Many Scriptures make clear that that reign is in the future. It is sufficient for our purposes here to show that the coming Messiah must be descended from Abraham.

But Christ also must be descended from Judah. In Genesis 49:10 the prophecy which God gave Jacob about his sons is quoted as follows: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." The word *Shiloh* means rest, or Messiah. This Messiah or Lawgiver to whom the people would be gathered, must be descended from Judah.

The promise was even more explicit. The coming Messiah must come from the kingly line of David. In II Samuel 7:16, God said to David, through the prophet Nathan, "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever." That clear promise is repeated in the eighty-ninth Psalm and in I Chronicles, chapter 22. Now the reign of Christ was not prophesied to occur at His first coming. Jesus came the first time to die, and the Bible tells that He will come the second time to reign. But the important point here is that God prophesied that this coming Messiah, the seed of Abraham, the Shiloh and Lawgiver from Judah, would be of the house of David.

Now here is the remarkable fulfillment. The first sentence in the New Testament is this: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." And there follows a detailed genealogy showing that Jesus came through Abraham, Isaac and Judah, *officially*, that is by adoption, since that is the genealogy of Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, but not His real father. And then the literal and real genealogy of the Lord Jesus is given in Luke 3:29-38, from Eli, Mary's father, the father-in-law of Joseph and the grandfather of the Lord Jesus, all the way back through King David, Judah, and Abraham!

2. Christ Was to Be Born At Bethlehem in Judea.

Micah 5:2 says, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." The Jews all understood this to refer to the Saviour. So, in the New Testament, when the wise men came from the East to inquire where the Christ would be born, Herod had the chief priests and scribes gathered, and they instructed the wise men to seek for the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, because of this verse (Matt. 2:3-8). And in Bethlehem they found the baby Jesus. See also Luke 2:1-7.

This is a startling fact that the very village where the Saviour was to be born was foretold. A very dear friend of mine, Louis Zuckerman, had spent eight years in a school of the Talmud, prepar-

(Continued on page four)

500 TRACTS A YEAR

Any Christian applying to the Scripture Witness League for membership who promises to prayerfully distribute no less than 500 tracts a year will receive the same postpaid Free. The membership dues is \$1.00 a year. Send for free samples and also a new VICTORY tract for service men.

Scripture Witness League
2011 Wellington Ave. Chicago, Ill.

Baptist Bulletin Praises "Prayer— Asking and Receiving"

Says, "It Is a Heart - Searching, Soul-Probing, Unbelief - Rebuking, Faith - Stimulating, Prayer-Encouraging Manual"

We have recently received a book review on "PRAYER— Asking and Receiving," by Evangelist John R. Rice. The review is from the *Baptist Bulletin*, written by our brother, Rev. V. C. Oltrogge. It is so gracious that we gratefully quote it here. That review follows:

"This well advertised volume merits every commendation it has received, and more. It is not just another book on prayer" as your reviewer confesses he first accepted the news of its publication. It is a heart-searching, soul-probing, unbelief-rebuking, faith-stimulating, prayer-encouraging manual. It is expository, historical, biographical, practical. Its style is conversational, the characteristic preaching manner of its author.

"God is exalted into His rightful place as a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. His children are stimulated, by the free invitations He has given, to ask Him for their wants and needs, and to expect a reply! No item is too great, no problem too small to win His attention and action if He is sought diligently, in faith believing.

"The mutilation of the Bible's prayer promises on the hard ground of ultra dispensationalism, is seen without adequate justification in the light of both the unchangeableness of God's character, and the demonstration of His faithfulness in answering prayer today as He did yesteryear.

"Prayer hindrances are faithfully and kindly dealt with, and the heinousness of prayerlessness is presented as the Christian's chief sin and the greatest cause of heart-break to God the Father.

"Anyone reading this book with sincerity of purpose will have a new prayer life!"

Our hearts are grateful beyond words at the way God is using this book on prayer, at the heartfelt commendations coming from Christian leaders all over the continent. Have you got your copy yet? There are 328 extra large pages, twenty-one strong chapters, bound in royal blue cloth stamped in gold. The book is full of Bible teaching and warm personal illustrations. The remarkably low price is only **\$1.25**.

Order from
SWORD OF THE LORD
PUBLISHERS

145 N. Hale St. Wheaton, Ill.

EXULTING IN TRIBULATION

(Continued from page one)

For we ask it in His name, and for His sake. Amen.

My earnest prayer is that this short message on glorying, or exulting, in tribulations, may be a source of great comfort to many of you. The age-long question of "why do the righteous suffer?" is fresh upon the remembrances of God's children everywhere even today. We find a partial answer in chapter 5 of Romans. Please remember that chapter 5 is a pivotal chapter. Up to chapter 5 Paul has been stressing the fact of the great gospel, the good news which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. He has been showing the world-wide need of that gospel. And then beginning with chapter 5 he gives the results of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

We spoke upon three of them last Sunday. Peace: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace." That is, no longer you are considered as a rebel in God's government. The moment that you accept Christ, by that acceptance you are at peace, you have peace with God through Christ. The natural man is a rebel against God's government. And then the second thing we spoke upon was having access. "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand." (Rom. 5:2). And we have access to the throne of grace daily through the new and living way, and we rejoice in hope of the coming glory.

Christians Do Have Tribulations

Now it is strange, isn't it, after speaking about how to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, how some day this body of our humiliation will be fashioned like unto His glorious body and we will be like Christ with a resurrection, eternal body? Or, it is wonderful to think of the hope of the glory of God.

And then back in the third verse it brings us right down to earth and he says, "And not only so, but we glory (or exult) in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope." And I can hear someone come right back at me and say, "Do you mean to tell me, Brother Fuller, that a believer is to experience tribulation? I thought when one was saved he would be free from testings and trials. Doesn't God promise when we are saved that we have pardon and forgiveness of sins and that He would never remember our sins against us any more forever? I thought the Christian life was full of joy and rejoicing." Sure it is. Let me say that the Christian should be the happiest person on earth. For the moment he is saved he does have peace and pardon and forgiveness and the joy of the Lord, and he can and should rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory no matter what comes. I know that 'all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called ones according to His purpose.' Yes, the Christian life is the best life, the happiest life. It is truly wonderful to be a born-again Christian.

But now I want to help you. I know that thousands of God's children are going through testings and tribulations and trials. And I want to comfort you with the comfort with which I have been comforted in this question of tribulation or "Why do the righteous suffer?" In John 16:33, it was at the last supper and Christ was speaking to His disciples. He had said to them, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." Then in the fifteenth chapter, He tells

about the vine and the branches being fruit-bearing, and not only bearing fruit, but more fruit and much fruit. Then He winds up that last supper discourse by saying these words, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). And in another place Paul said that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. You see there are two sides to the beautiful Christian life. Not only as a branch of the True Vine in which you have peace and security and draw from that life of God, sharing His resurrection life and all the rest of the wonderful benefits; but in the world, from the world's standpoint, that is toward the world, ye shall have tribulation.

Tested, Flailed For Our Gold

I will never forget as long as I live going up to Mount Whitney some years ago and coming to a plateau. On the edge of that plateau I saw a tree right on the crest. Years ago a little seed had fallen there in the crevice of the rock. The roots had gone down into the rock, then the tree had reared itself above, but it was subject to every storm, every wind. And one side of that tree seemed to be blistered and the branches all pointed to the way the wind was blowing. I went up to that tree and felt the strength of it, how it was rooted in the rock. Yet it has been through storms and testings and trials. I said to myself, "That is the Believer. He is on the Rock and in the Rock and yet God tests him." And how that tree stood through those storms! It could tell a great story.

Now the meaning of the word *tribulation* comes from the Latin word *tribulum*, meaning a flail. Now a flail was used in Old Testament days to thresh out the wheat. It consisted of several long narrow strips of leather fastened together to a short wooden handle. The bundles of wheat were taken from the field up to a rocky point, a place where the wind would blow, and the wheat was placed on the floor of the rocky point, and then with the flail the wheat kernels would be loosened from the heads of wheat. As the wind would blow across that rocky point, it would blow the chaff away and the wheat would be left clean and separated from the worthless chaff. It needed to be beaten with the flail.

Now the application is very simple. God's children are compared to wheat. Wheat is used in the Bible as a type of the believer. So in order that we as believers may be separated from all that is worthless, the chaff of earthly things, the temporal things, the carnal things, God graciously uses the flail, that is, tribulation. Thus the wheat is threshed, and at the same time the Holy Spirit, the wind, the breath of God, blows across us and blows the chaff away, and we soon come out from the testing, from the threshing floor of daily experience purified, clean, separated, ready for the Master's use.

How Paul Took Tribulation

No wonder Paul exclaimed, "We exult (or glory) in tribulations." In other words he glories in having the flail, the *tribulum* applied. For he knew God had a purpose and that purpose was this: "tribulation" or the beating of the wheat, "worketh patience" or endurance. That word *patience* could be literally translated *endurance*.

Now look at Paul's life. He was saved on the road to Damascus and God spoke to Ananias about Paul: "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: for I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." (Acts 9:15, 16). Oh how beautifully Paul witnessed God-ward! He rejoiced always with abounding joy and says that he was more than conqueror through Him that loved him and gave Himself for him. But in the world did he have tribulation? Did God not use the flail to beat out the chaff from Paul's life that he might be purified? Well, I want you to take your Bible and turn

with me for a few moments to II Corinthians the fourth chapter and we find that he said, "We are appointed, marked out, unto afflictions." Now the word *afflictions* means pressure. You know I have never seen a time when there was so much pressure down on a child of God. Children of God get together and they say, "Do you feel the pressure?" It means difficulty.

Let me read about Paul in the fourth chapter of II Corinthians, beginning at the 8th verse: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; We are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." Notice, "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body," and the great purpose of tribulation, using the flail, is this, that you might be crucified and dead to the things of the world, that the life of Christ in you might shine out to dying men and women and they see that sweetness of a Christian character in you and be drawn to the Lamb of Calvary which taketh away the sin of the world. "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." (vs. 11).

Tribulation Fits For Service

Then in the sixth chapter beginning at the fourth verse, "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience (endurance), in affliction, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

Then we read how Paul said, "I take pleasure in affliction." Why? Because he knew that there was a purpose back of it, that that flail was to beat him as wheat that the chaff of things that are worthless might be driven away from him, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth (child-trains), and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." And then he goes on to say, "Now no child-training, or chastening, seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." And what is that exercise for? That you may have endurance. And so we read in II Timothy 2:3, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Why, we see men in uniform everywhere. They are here in the service. There were many of them in Long Beach this morning. We hear much about soldiers training, how they are to be made physically fit, how our men are being put through the paces to become fit and toughened for the pace that is ahead that they might endure hardness! They jump over ditches, go through trenches, have obstacles to overcome, climb hills, climb walls. Why? That when they come up against the real thing they can endure hardness and endure it under all types of weather, that they may be able to endure, to stand the test. That is exactly what God is doing with you and me. He is trying you. He will not suffer you to be tested above that which you are able, but will with the testing provide a way of escape. But He is testing you that you might have endurance, perseverance, that you might stand the gaff, take it on the chin, and when you appear before the judgment seat of Christ to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," and you receive a distinguished service cross at the judgment seat of Christ. Oh listen, take it on the chin! "Tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience."

How Heroes of Faith Took Tribulation

Say, if you want to read about a group of men who took it and who endured, you turn with me for a few moments to the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, especially after the thirty-second verse. After recalling there about Abel and Enoch and Noah and Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, then he says, "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to fight the armies of the aliens." Say, the Christian life is no place for a sissy! It takes a backbone like an old hickory spoke of a wheel and not like someone with a backbone like a piece of wet spaghetti. It takes real men to occupy and stand the gaff and be tested and have the flail or tribulation applied. "Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yet, moreover of bonds and imprisonment."

You read through the book of Acts how when they suffered for Christ's sake, they said, "We rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer for Him." "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience (endurance) the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we exult in tribulations, (the flail, the *tribulum*) also: knowing that tribulation worketh endurance; and endurance, experience; and experience, hope."

Let's bow our heads in prayer. PRAYER: Our Father, we realize that hundreds, yea, thousands, of Thy beloved children are going through deep waters and deep trials, not knowing which way to turn. Oh, may they account it an honour to suffer for Thy name's sake, because every son that Thou dost receive Thou dost child-train, chasten, we need correction, we need to be brought away from ourselves unto Thee. Like John of old may we lean heavily upon thy bosom and be tucked away by Thy riven side close to Thee. Oh, what a privilege it is, what a privilege and honour it is to suffer for Thee. And I thank Thee for every trial, every testing, that Thou have brought me through. Heavenly Father, I wouldn't have missed it for anything. It was so hard at the time, but these light afflictions are working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory and Thou know the best, and oh, wilt Thou stand by until the morning. And then those that need Christ as a personal Saviour, may they just come and cast them-

selves at Thy feet and say, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner and save me for Christ's sake." For we ask it in His name. Amen.

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling.

Calling for you and for me; See, on the portals He is waiting and watching

Watching for you and for me. Come home, come home,

Ye who are weary, come home; Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling.

Calling, O Sinner, come home!

God's Word says, 'Think it not strange when fiery trials come upon you to try you.' God has a purpose for that to try your faith which is much more precious than gold, that it might be tried and found unto honour and praise at His coming. Notice what it says here, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations (testings): that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:5-7).

Oh, listen, the word *witness* comes from a word which means a martyr. And if you are to be a witness, you are even to be a martyr if need be, and you are not to love your life, even unto death. Oh, God help us to be real witnesses for Him!

We trust by God's grace to be with you next Sunday. You will pray for us, won't you, and especially for the converts. We would love to hear from you. Our address is

Charles E. Fuller
Box 123
Los Angeles, California.
Goodbye, and God bless you.

"The Christian And War"

The above is the title of a remarkable pamphlet by Dr. Robert L. Moyer, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Minneapolis, and Dean of the Northwestern Bible School and Seminary there. Here are twenty-two pages packed full of clear, helpful Bible teaching on the duty of Christians about war, the duty of allegiance to government, the duty of helping to put down crime, the place that God has given nations in matters of war. The Bible has clear instructions that ought not to be misunderstood. You will help every father or mother of a soldier boy, help every soldier boy himself, help every preacher who is concerned with this subject, to give them this pamphlet. It is printed in blue, page size 4 1/2 x 7 1/4, and the low price is only fifteen cents a copy, or twenty-five cents for two. We would like to get this pamphlet out widely for the good that it will do. This great Bible teacher, this honest and greatly used man of God, has rendered us all a service. Order from

SWORD OF THE LORD
PUBLISHERS
145 N. Hale St. Wheaton, Ill.

Sword Helps Minister

I have been taking "The Sword of the Lord" for some time now, and can truly say I thank God for such a glorious paper. It has been a wonderful help to me in my personal life and in my ministry as well.

Rev. H. E. U.
Boonville, Indiana.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 26, 1941, at the post office at Denton, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1897.

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Published weekly at 208 South Elm Street, Denton, Texas. Editorial and Executive Office: 145 North Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

Subscription Price: \$1.00 a year, 3 years, \$2.00.

Canada and Foreign Countries: \$1.50 a year.



Free Sermons!

Evangelist John L. Bray has several of his evangelistic messages printed in leaflet form. If you would like to have free copies of these sermons to read, he will be glad to send them to you. The titles are, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" (8 pages), "The Comfort of Heaven" (10 pages), and "A Bible Hell for Sinners" (6 pages). Also a four page gospel tract entitled, "Where Will You Be Five Minutes After You Die?"

Address JOHN L. BRAY, 1066 LaRue St., S. Jacksonville, Florida.

PROPHECY PROVES THE BIBLE

(Continued from page two)

ing to be a Jewish rabbi, before leaving Russia for the United States. In Chicago he taught in the Hebrew Institute as a rabbi, scholar. But familiar as he was with the Old Testament in the original Hebrew, he had never noticed Micah 5:2, promising that the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem in Judea, until he heard it in the First Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. He stormed out of the church declaring that the preacher was a liar, deceiving the people, that no such promise was in the Old Testament. But back in his room he looked in his Hebrew Old Testament, and there it was! As a result of that verse, he was convinced that Christ was the Messiah and accepted Him as his Saviour and soon thereafter became my intimate friend and was often in my home. No one denies that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. No one can deny that it was foretold hundreds of years before, in Micah 5:2.

3. The Very Year of Christ's Coming Was Foretold.

Here is a little-known but startling truth. The ninth chapter of Daniel has a definite prophecy that Christ would come 483 years after a certain decree by a Medo-Persian king! When that world ruler should order Jerusalem restored and rebuilt, in the days of Nehemiah, it would then be 483 years until Messiah, the Prince, should appear! Daniel 9:25 says, "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." Remember that Jews had weeks of years the same as weeks of days. After sixty-nine sevens of years (7 plus 62 by 7) or 483 years. The Messiah the Prince was to be manifested.

That amazing prophecy was written hundreds of years before Christ came, and it was literally fulfilled. Some parts of the context have to do with Christ's second coming, but the 483 years between the king's command to build and restore Jerusalem, and the coming of the Saviour have been fulfilled, and I have never even heard of an infidel who claimed he could disprove this fact. It was no doubt because the wise men in Babylon had read this very passage from Daniel the prophet that they were looking for the Messiah when He was born in Bethlehem of Judea, as discussed in the second chapter of Matthew.

4. Herod's Slaughter of Innocent Babies and the Flight With the Baby Jesus into Egypt Were Foretold.

In Hosea 11:1 we read, "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt." On the surface, that verse is about Israel, the nation. But a nation is not a son. In the second Psalm, the coming Christ, the Anointed, is discussed, and verse twelve says, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." Clearly the Messiah, the Son of God, is the one meant. And Hosea 11:1 refers to this same Son of God! God would call His Son out of Egypt, Hosea prophesied!

That is exactly what happened. The wise men warned Joseph of Herod's plans to destroy the baby Jesus. Matthew 2:14, 15 then tells us, "When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son." God's prophecy was fulfilled!

Herod in anger, when the wise men would not help him to find the baby Jesus, killed many innocent children. Matthew 2:16-18 tells us "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently

enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."

The quotation from Jeremiah is in Jeremiah 31:15. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born the incident of the baby Jesus being carried down into Egypt, and of Herod's terrible slaughter of the innocent, was foretold by Hosea and Jeremiah.

Another marvelous fulfillment of prophecy was that Jesus was born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14 tells us, "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." How that prophecy was marvelously fulfilled, so that Jesus was born of a virgin without a human father, is told in detail in Matthew, chapter 1, and Luke, chapter 1. However, I do not here stress the point of Christ's virgin birth, since it is denied by those who deny the Bible. We are only stressing here those prophecies whose fulfillment is absolutely undeniable, that any infidel may check upon and find the prophecy and its literal fulfillment.

B. Many Literal Details of the Death of Christ Foretold in the Old Testament.

1. It Was Foretold That Christ Must Die For Others; a Substitutionary, Atoning Death.

Isaiah 53:5, 6 states that clearly: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

That was the clear prophetic meaning of the Passover lamb in Exodus, chapter 12. The scapegoat pictured Christ carrying away our sins. The bullock as a sacrifice pictured Christ, our burden-bearing Saviour. The mourning turtle-dove pictured Christ, the Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. The white pigeon pictured Christ, the pure and innocent One, the stainless One, dying for others. And always the blood of animal sacrifices pictured the blood of Christ which would atone for man's sins. Leviticus 17:11 says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

But the New Testament clearly tells that all these prophecies were fulfilled in Christ. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:3, 4 that the gospel is this: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures." I Corinthians 5:7 says, "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." II Corinthians 5:21 says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." And this precious doctrine, that Christ fulfilled Old Testament prophecies in His atoning death on the cross, is plainly taught in I Peter 1:18, 19, which says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

2. The Messiah, the Saviour, Must Be Crucified, Hanged On a Wooden Cross.

Since Christ was to bear the curse of all sinners, it was an easily-understood prophecy that he must be hanged, suspended publicly on the cross. Deuteronomy 21:22, 23, says, "And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that

is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance." Note that statement, "for he that is hanged is accursed of God." When Christ bore the curse of God for us, then, it would have to be by some public hanging. So Jesus was crucified on a Roman cross. And Galatians 3:13 explains it thus: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

But Christ must be nailed to the cross, as well as hang there. To hang Him with rope would not be enough to fulfill the Scriptures. Zechariah 13:6 prophesies that in the future some who see Christ will say to Him, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" And we are told He will answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." Psalm 22 says: "They pierced my hands and my feet." The nail-scars in the hands of Christ were prophesied in the Old Testament!

It is striking that Christ should be crucified instead of stoned, for when the Old Testament prophecies were written crucifixion was unknown among the Jews. Even when people were hanged on the tree, in Old Testament times, it was after they had been put to death, as you see from Deuteronomy 21:22. The customary, almost universal manner of inflicting the official death penalty was by stoning. But the Old Testament Scriptures foretold that Christ would die by being nailed to a cross, and it came to pass, as each of the gospels tells us. This unlikely event came to pass because God had inspired the prophecy and fulfilled it!

3. The Saviour Was Not to Have A Single Bone Broken.

I have said that the passover lamb pictured Christ, the coming Messiah. Every detail of that passover lamb had a meaning. The lamb must be without spot or blemish (Exodus 12:5), picturing the sinlessness of Christ. It was roasted whole with fire, and eaten with bitter herbs, signifying the sufferings of Christ. And here is a startling fact. God insisted that when each family in Egypt would kill, roast and eat a passover lamb each year, that they should never break a bone of it. Exodus 12:46 says, "Neither shall ye break a bone thereof." So when the coming Saviour should appear and be rejected by Israel, it was prophesied that they should never break His bones.

How often the Jews intended to do that very thing! Again and again we are told that "They took up stones to stone him" (John 8:59; John 10:31 etc). But they never could do it! And when Jesus hung on the cross, Satan would have liked to break this prophecy, and prove the Bible a lie. The Jews came and "besought Pilate that their legs (the legs of Jesus and the two thieves crucified with Him) might be broken, and that they might be taken away." But did the soldiers break the legs of Jesus, as the Jews demanded, and as Pilate agreed? No! For John 19:32, 33 tells us, "Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs." Then again, verse 36 in the same chapter says, "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, a bone of Him shall not be broken." How marvelous it is that these details of Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled to the very letter in Christ's death!

4. Yet the dying Saviour had to Be Pierced With a Spear.

Since the death of Christ was to be of such matchless importance, many many details concerning the death of the coming Messiah were foretold by Old Testament prophets. For example, Zechariah 12:10 tells how the inhabitants of Jerusalem would one day look upon the Messiah whom they had pierced: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced." Now how was this fulfilled? Turn again to John 19 and we find that when the soldiers found that Jesus was already dead and did not break

His legs, then, verse 34 tells us, "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." Then verse 37 below explains the meaning of it thus, "And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."

5. The Death-Scene of the Dying Saviour Is Pictured in Detail in Psalm 22.

When the twenty-second Psalm was written, the Bible was certainly put to the test. If the details there so clearly pictured should be fulfilled in the death of the coming Messiah, the Bible would be forever proven as the infallible Word of God. And that is exactly what happened. Note these details of Christ's crucifixion there pictured.

(a) The very words that Christ uttered on the cross, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" were foretold in verse one. Now read in Matthew 27:46 where Jesus said those very words!

(b) What the onlookers would say to Christ was also prophesied. Psalm 22:7, 8 says, "All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him." That was fulfilled, for in Matthew 27:43 we are told that the chief priests, mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God."

(c) Psalm 22:18 says, "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." That was written hundreds of years before Christ was born. Now see how that prophecy was fulfilled. Matthew 27:35 says, "And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, 'They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did cast lots.'"

(d) Psalm 22:16 says, "They pierced my hands and my feet." How clearly the prophet foretold the nailing of Christ to the cross, centuries before!

6. The Coming Saviour, When Crucified, Must Be Given Gall And Vinegar.

Psalm 69:21 says, "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." The fulfillment, hundreds of years later, is given us in Matthew 27:33, 34, "And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, they gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink."

6. The Season, the Day of the Month, the Very Time of the Day When the Saviour Die, Were Foretold 1500 Years Ahead of Time!

Again we mention that the passover lamb to be sacrificed, roasted with fire and eaten by every large family in Israel (or by two smaller families) once a year, pictured Jesus Christ. Here is a remarkable fact; this passover feast was given to the children of Israel in Egypt, about 1500 years before Christ, and there it was said that in the first month of the year (Exodus 12:2) on the fourteenth day of the month (Exodus 12:6) and "in the evening" the lamb should be slain each year. The phrase in the Hebrew is even more definite, I understand, "between the evening" or midway between noon and night. Thus if the coming Saviour should be slain at the time definitely pictured by millions of passover lambs which had been slain as typical of His death, then the Saviour would die at mid-afternoon on the fourteenth day of Nisan, in the midst of the passover season!

Well, that is exactly what happened. In the passover season, Jesus ate a preliminary passover meal with His disciples, but did not eat the passover lamb. No lamb is mentioned. The day Jesus died was "the preparation of the passover" (John 19:14). This preparation day for the passover feast ended at sundown and a new day began and John 19:31 tells us that the Jews hastened to have the body of Jesus taken down before sundown! For at sundown began the first great day of the

feast of unleavened bread, an annual sabbath when no servile work could be done (see Exodus 12:15-18). Jesus died on the very day foretold in prophecy 1500 years before, the day on which every Jewish family, for hundreds of years, had slain their passover lamb.

And what time of the day was it when Jesus died? It was literally mid-afternoon, as Matthew 27:46 says, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out..." and then verse 50 just below says, "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." By sun time, used by the Jews, there were twelve hours in the day, twelve hours of the night. The ninth hour was 3:00 P. M. Jesus died exactly at the specified hour of the specified day of the specified year foretold in the Bible. A man must be deliberately unwilling to see the truth, among the "fools and slow of heart to believe" (Luke 24:25) if he is not astonished and convinced by this proof that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God, and that Christ is the long prophesied Son of God and Saviour.

8. Even Judas' Betrayal of Christ For Thirty Pieces of Silver and His Tragic Death Were Foretold.

In Zechariah 11:12, 13 is a strange Scripture. In the midst of a highly figurative passage about Bands and Beauty, is this definite prophecy, that the price of a certain man should be thirty pieces of silver, that then in the house of the Lord, the temple, these thirty pieces of silver should be cast to the potter. "And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was priced at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord."

This prophecy is about the Saviour Himself, that He should be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver by Judas Iscariot and this was fulfilled as told in Matthew 26:14, 15, as follows: "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver." Then later, when Judas had betrayed the Saviour and received the thirty pieces of silver, he returned to the temple, conscience-stricken, to return the bribe. When they would not have it he threw down the money in the temple and went and hanged himself. Then the chief priests took the money and went and bought a potters field to bury strangers in. This account is given in Matthew 26, verses 3 to 8. Psalm 41 is about David, but it is also a prophecy about the coming Saviour. Verse 9 says, "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." So Jesus, sitting at the last supper, and knowing that Judas would betray Him, said as recorded in John 13:18, 19, "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he." Even the fact that Judas would lose his place as an apostle, and that another would be selected to carry on his work, was prophesied in Psalm 69:25, and Peter quoted that verse of Scripture about Judas when the apostles started to elect his successor, as recorded in Acts 1:20.

Many other details of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection were foretold, but here we have given enough to convince every honest heart.

In every detail, Jesus died exactly as had been prophesied the Messiah should die in Old Testament prophecies written hundreds of years before! That could be no accident. Only a supernatural revelation from God could foretell hundreds of years ahead of time so many, many literal accurate details without a single error. The Bible is God's infallible Word!

Look for other articles to follow, showing the miraculous fulfillment of other prophecies, which prove the Bible true.